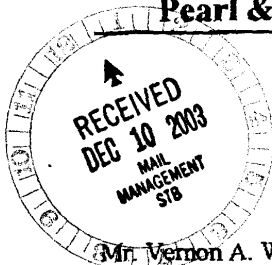


Pearl & Leaf Rivers Rails-To-Trails Recreational District 209582



"Longleaf Trace"
P.O. Box 15187
Hattiesburg, Mississippi 39404

December 10, 2003

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings

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Part of
Public Record

Mr. Vernon A. Williams, Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K. St., NW, Room 711
Washington, DC 20423

Re: Canadian National/Illinois Central-Abandonment-Forrest County Mississippi, STB
Docket Number AB-43 (Sub-No. 173-X)

Dear Secretary Williams:

As a follow up to my conversation with Mr. Michael J. Barron Jr., Counsel for Illinois Central Railroad Company, please be advised that the Pearl & Leaf Rivers Rails-to-Trails Recreational District, the City of Hattiesburg, Mississippi, and the Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) are continuing their effort to acquire title to the above referenced abandonment. Therefore, an additional 90 day extension of time is necessary beyond the current deadline date of December 22, 2003, in order to cause the necessary coordination agreement and understandings between the referenced parties of interest in the acquisition.

As previously stated, this time is needed for the parties to reach the necessary understandings as to whom and how the title will be acquired and how the cost of acquiring the title will be distributed among the procuring entities. It is also noted that Mr. Butch Brown, executive director of MDOT, has recently resigned his duties and in view of his role as leader of the coordinated effort, this additional time is needed to reestablish leadership and the cause the acquisition effort to proceed with full agreement and to conclusion.

We sincerely regret the necessity of our making this request. However it has been and continues to be the intent of the entities involved to acquire the abandoned portion of the railroad as referenced assuming negotiations and final agreements can be reached.

Sincerely,


Herlon Picke, Trail Manager

Cc: Mr. Michael J. Barron, Jr., Counsel Illinois Central Railroad Company
Ms. Josephine Gomillion, STB
Mr. Wayne Brown, Southern District Commissioner MDOT
Mr. Stone Barfield, Attorney Pearl & Leaf Rivers BOD
Mr. Harry Lee James, Acting Executive Director, MDOT
Mr. Johnny Dupree, Mayor, City of Hattiesburg
Mr. Ray Balentine, Director, Planning, MDOT

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Pearl & Leaf Rivers Rails-To-Trails Recreational District

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Hattiesburg, Mississippi 39404



FAX COVER SHEET

TO: Josephine Gomillion
FAX # (202) 565-9002
FROM: Kellie @ Longleaf Trace
DATE: 12-10-03
MESSAGE: _____

NUMBER OF PAGES INCLUDING COVER 2

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